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OCT 30 1953

F790001-1150

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

M : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

371
DESP. NO.

: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 29, 1953
DATE

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION OLA-10	DEPT. INFO DOK-2 ARA-2 I-3 IPS-1 IBS-2
	REC'D 11-1	OTHER CIA-10 OSD-4 ARMY-35 NAVY-39 AIR-24 PSB-1

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 44 for State, Army and Air Departments from S - Section I.

Central Files

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SUMMARY

The Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT) this week sought to advance its "popular front" tactic by holding mass meetings in favor of creation of a strengthened "National Democratic Front" consisting of all Administration parties, the national labor and agricultural federations, and Communist-line youth's, women's and other "mass" organizations. If this enlarged front is achieved it would increase Communist leverage on the government.

Michael K. SAMOILOV, Commercial Attaché of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico, completed a three-week's "trade mission" to Guatemala during which he conferred with José Manuel FORTUNY, Secretary General of the PGT, and other Communist personalities.

The United Fruit Company took a labor dispute with the workers on its Atlantic Coast plantations to the Labor Courts with a petition that a work-stoppage be authorized because costs were becoming too high.

Assistant Secretary CABOT's October 14 speech continued to be the target of the leftist press which attempted to link its alleged "interventionist" tone with an exile opposition group's handbill calling for sabotage.

Ambassador John E. Peurifoy arrived in Guatemala on October 29.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/30/78
PER [illegible] OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 740332

Action Assigned to [illegible]
Action Taken [illegible]
Date of Action 11/3
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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

790004-1151

Communists Launch Appeal for Strengthened "National Democratic Front": At the close of its fall Plenary Session on October 18, the Central Committee of the Communist PGT issued a manifesto to the Guatemalan people calling for a strengthened "National Democratic Front" in support of the Arbenz Administration (Weeka 43). The present "National Democratic Front" is composed of the four Administration parties--the Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR), the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG), the Renovación Nacional (RN), and the PGT--but it is shaky from internal dissensions and the repeated failure of the parties to take united action outside of the capital. The PGT manifesto is an appeal to strengthen this structure and formally to add to it the Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG), the Communist-controlled national labor federation; the Confederación Nacional Campesina de Guatemala (CNCG), the Communist-oriented agricultural federation, and "mass" organizations such as the Alianza de la Juventud Democrática de Guatemala and the Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca (AFG), the Communist-controlled youths' and women's organizations. Several mass meetings in favor of such a Front were held in provincial towns during the week, and the PRG newspaper Diario del Pueblo endorsed it.

"Anti-Communist Electoral Front" Announced: A group of anti-Communist organizations this week announced the formation of an "Anti-Communist Electoral Front" which will present a single ticket in the various towns where municipal elections are scheduled to take place in late November. The Front includes Partido Unificación Anticomunista (PUA), the Partido Unificación Democrática (PUD), the university students' Comité de Estudiantes Universitarios Anticomunistas and affiliated organizations. It does not include the Partido Independiente Anticomunista de Occidente, the leading opposition party in the Quetzaltenango Area. The prospects of the anti-Communists in the elections are dim since their leaders are in many cases in exile or prison and their organizations are feeble.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Soviet Diplomat Confers With Guatemalan Communist Leaders: Michael K. Samoilov, Commercial Attaché of the Soviet Embassy in Mexico, visited Guatemala on October 9-27, and, according to press reports confirmed by another source, conferred with José Manuel FORTUNY, Secretary General of the Communist PGT, and other Communist leaders and Communist sympathizers. The press reported that in addition to Fortuny, Samoilov saw Alfonso SOLORZANO, Manager of the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security, and

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Ernesto CAPUANO, Fortuny's running-mate in the 1953 Congressional elections, both of whom are members of the Political Committee of the leftist PRG. The independent source was also able to confirm a conference with Capuano and stated that Carlos Manuel PELLECER, Communist deputy, and Armando AMADOR, Nicaraguan Communist exile, also saw Samoilov.

The ostensible purpose of Samoilov's visit was to promote Guatemalan-Soviet trade relations, though on one occasion he told a reporter he was on vacation. The press reported that he distributed advertising material about Soviet bicycles, radios, and other light-industry products, and stated that the Soviet prices for these would be less than those of similar products from the U. S. and Great Britain.

AMERICAN INTERESTS

United Fruit Company Petitions to Stop Its Bananera Operations: In a labor dispute at the United Fruit Company's Atlantic Coast banana plantations at Bananera, the company petitioned a Labor Court to declare that a work-stoppage would be legal, alleging that the workers' demands for wage raises and other benefits added to losses from Panama disease and storms would make operations uneconomic. The petition was merely a legal move under the Labor Code which permits a work-stoppage with the approval of a Labor Court as the employer's weapon corresponding to the workers' right to strike. It is, at this stage, thus more of a tactical move in the intricate game of labor relations under Guatemalan law than an indication that the company now has closed its mind to continuing its Atlantic Coast operations. A company spokesman told newspapers the petition was neither "a threat or a reprisal."

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Attacks on Cabot Address Continue: On the propaganda front, Guatemala's Communist and leftist press continued through the week to attack the October 14 speech of Assistant Secretary Cabot before the General Federation of Women's Clubs (Weeka 43). The central theme was carried forward by the Communist Party's Tribuna Popular, which again charged that Mr. Cabot was "gradually preparing the conditions for a foreign intervention." Both Tribuna Popular and the PRG's Diario del Pueblo attempted to contrive a propaganda link between Mr. Cabot and an inflammatory anti-Government handbill credited to the Mexican-based "Patriotic

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Committee for the Liberation of Guatemala." The handbill, which has been circulating for some time, was revived by the semi-official Nuestro Diario as "evidence" of U. S. complicity in a plot to foment rebellion against the Arbenz Administration.

For the Ambassador

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

Contributor: W. A. Krauss
Public Affairs Officer.

cc: C.A. Missions & routine.

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